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Foreign Crops and MARKETS

VOLUME 57 NUMBER 19

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 8, 1948

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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LATE NEWS

For the week ending November 3, Canadian sources indicate that 16,710 head of slaughter and feeder cattle were exported to the United States, or a total of 175,423 head since the middle of August.

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A Cuban Ministry of Commerce resolution, according to announcement, has established a retail ceiling price on domestically produced evaporated milk at 18 cents per 14-ounce can. The new price was established at 1 cent lower than the price proposed in the Commerce resolution of September 22 which was not promulgated. It was further announced that the cabinet has decided to decree unspecified, but lower, price ceilings than now exist for live cattle and beef to become effective November 5.

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Beef in Bucharest was recently brought under ration control at official prices. The purchase of mutton and pork for resale is now subject to authorization by the Ministry of Commerce. These actions put the bulk of meat sales under Government controls.

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The first season dates shipment left Basra October 9 when the S.S. Steel Voyager sailed for the United States, with approximately 130,000 cases of Iraqi dates. The second date ship bound for the United States, the S.S. Avristan with 290,000 cases, was scheduled to sail the first week of November. The quality of Hallawi and Khadrawi is reported good, but the quality of Sayer dates is inferior to that of last year.

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Potato production in France, normally the world's third largest potato producer, is now estimated at 610 million bushels for 1948 compared with 490 million in 1947, and the prewar average of 573 million. The increase of 85 million bushels above the estimate in the October 25, 1948 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets is said to be due to unusually high yields per acre. This resulted from more intensive use of selected seed potatoes; increased plantings in the high-yield areas of northern France, particularly in Brittany, and reduced acreage in the low-yield area south of the Loire.

Production in 1948 in Czechoslovakia, normally the world's fifth largest producer, is now officially reported at 190 million bushels compared with 172 million in 1947, and the prewar average of 342 million. The Czechoslovakian output is a reduction of 104 million bushels below the previous estimate of 294 million bushels published October 25. The major cause of the small 1948 crop in Czechoslovakia is reported to be the smaller acreage planted and the lack of good quality seed potatoes for planting last spring. Also, weather in March and April was dry, retarding the early growth of potatoes in many areas. Infestation of potato beetles was greater than normal.

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WORLD RICE PRODUCTION INCREASES

The world rice harvest of 1948-49 (August-July) is forecast at 7,300 million bushels compared with 7,100 million in the preceding year and with 7,450 million bushels before the war, according to the first estimate of the Office of Foreign Agriculture Relations. Prospects indicate the crop will be about 98 percent of prewar average (1935-36/39-40) production, and the largest harvested since the end of the war.

The increase in world output is primarily the result of modest gains in a large number of the rice-producing countries. Weather to date generally has been favorable for production in most areas. An important increase took place in Asia, where in Japan, Korea, the Malayan Union, and the Netherlands Indies, some progress was made in recovery of acreages toward prewar levels. Large crops are being produced in China, the Indian Union, Pakistan, the Philippines, Formosa, and Ceylon.

Total production in Europe, Africa, and North America probably will again about equal the record outturn of last year. The rice acreage of the Southern Hemisphere yet to be planted may be only slightly larger than in the year before, when the acreage showed a decline from the high wartime level.

The world's acreage harvested shows an increase of 3 percent over prewar, but average per-acre yields are less as a result of continued fertilizer shortages and lower returns on submarginal land in some areas of expansion. The increase which occurred in the rice acreage of India and Pakistan during the war accounts for much of the total rise in world acreage over prewar.

China's acreage increased in 1948, and early prospects indicated a very good crop would be produced. Flood damage, however, decreased the harvest, and the output is now estimated about the same as last year. The Indian Union may produce one of the largest crops in several years. The planted acreage exceeds that of 1946-47, and weather thus far generally has been favorable. Some of Pakistan's acreage of a year ago was this season planted to jute, and some flood damage in local areas has been reported to have further decreased crop prospects.

In Japan and south Korea, the largest harvests since the war are being gathered. Japan's production is about 4 percent larger than in the preceding year, and is 97 percent of prewar average production. In Korea a slight increase occurred in acreage and exceptionally favorable growing conditions resulted in an outturn about equal to the prewar average.

The total area harvested in the exporting countries of Asia, Burma, Siam, and French Indochina, is expected to show only a slight increase. Civil disturbances in Burma are reported to have retarded recovery in plantings, and the area harvested is expected to be not much larger than in the preceding year, and less than 75 percent of prewar acreage.

(Text continued on Page 360; table follows)

ROUGH RICE: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, averages 1930-31 to 1939-40, annual 1946-47 to 1948-49 a/

Continent and country	Acreage					Yield per acre		Production				
	Average					Average		Average				
	1930-31 to 1934-35	1935-36 to 1939-40	1946-47	1947-48 b/	1948-49 b/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1948-49 b/	1930-31 to 1934-35	1935-36 to 1939-40	1946-47	1947-48 b/	1948-49 b/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA:												
Costa Rica	-	c/ 28	33	30	30	c/ 33.4	33.4	917	935	1,120	952	1,003
El Salvador	22	26	42	-	-	26.9	-	530	700	1,368	-	1,880
Mexico	84	95	157	183	183	42.2	40.2	3,478	4,007	6,760	7,300	7,350
Panama	35	50	105	122	130	32.0	22.8	960	1,600	2,709	2,594	2,965
United States	883	1,004	1,574	1,677	1,723	49.7	45.7	41,572	49,852	72,216	79,345	78,766
Cuba	36	45	107	105	120	21.4	25.9	935	965	2,400	2,870	3,110
Dominican Republic d/	45	80	124	100	92	36.3	45.1	1,517	2,905	3,684	3,840	4,150
Trinidad	7	10	22	-	-	30.0	-	180	300	844	-	-
Total	1,200	1,430	2,330	2,460	2,540	-	-	51,320	63,180	94,630	103,050	104,360
EUROPE:												
Bulgaria	18	19	14	-	-	54.8	-	791	1,041	500	-	-
France	1	1	2	6	12	30.0	41.7	35	30	118	245	500
Italy	360	362	325	348	-	103.9	-	34,139	37,620	26,000	34,300	31,000
Portugal	39	50	64	65	-	68.0	-	1,740	3,398	3,500	4,160	4,160
Spain	117	110	125	130	137	e/ 124.4	98.5	14,558	10,600	10,070	12,700	13,500
Total (excluding U.S.S.R.)	540	560	560	600	660	-	-	51,480	53,150	41,280	54,500	53,300
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	328	c/ 384	335	-	-	c/ 42.3	-	10,785	c/ 16,225	-	-	-
ASIA:												
Iran	c/ 560	c/ 534	544	545	545	c/ 37.1	39.6	c/ 22,413	18,577	20,576	15,606	21,560
Iraq	c/ 316	c/ 386	-	-	-	c/ 27.3	-	c/ 7,750	11,176	14,200	11,760	15,000
Syria	1	2	19	20	-	55.5	-	45	111	964	-	-
Turkey	66	78	45	56	62	61.2	71.0	3,329	4,774	2,976	3,720	4,400
Burma	12,770	12,671	7,788	9,154	9,250	27.5	28.1	358,219	348,534	194,942	270,547	260,000
China	c/ 47,099	c/ 48,161	45,165	45,373	45,617	c/ 52.5	49.9	2,345,574	2,623,383	2,253,921	2,278,436	2,275,000
Formosa	1,609	1,616	1,435	1,666	-	53.0	-	75,340	85,704	59,015	71,727	-
Manchuria	472	782	400	-	-	40.6	-	14,923	31,783	15,000	-	-
French Indochina	13,505	14,306	9,750	10,650	11,000	22.4	22.7	281,497	319,910	210,000	235,000	250,000
Indian Union f/	70,288	g/ 54,105	60,987	59,656	61,000	25.9	25.4	1,995,645	g/ 1,403,935	1,484,057	1,402,141	1,550,000
Pakistan		g/ 18,686	20,959	21,156	20,650	29.3	26.6		g/ 547,702	579,616	569,900	550,000

ASIA: (Cont'd.)												
Japan	7,887	7,862	7,700	7,830	7,850	75.8	72.6	557,217	595,845	561,082	554,501	576,000
Korea	4,112	3,838 h/	2,711 h/	2,753 h/	2,782	51.0	53.9	197,500	195,763 h/	110,112 h/	131,983 h/	150,000
Malayan Union	740	746	797	862	-	36.3	-	25,333	27,099	20,322	26,868	-
Netherlands Indies i/	9,140	9,794	8,850	9,000	-	32.0	-	276,935	313,144	270,000	275,000	-
Philippine Islands	4,643	4,852	4,816	5,007	5,150	21.6	23.1	105,025	104,877	107,689	109,782	119,000
Siam	7,141	7,088 j/	5,500 j/	6,700 j/	7,100	30.1	33.8	231,402	213,079 j/	170,000 j/	230,000 j/	240,000
Total (excluding U.S.S.R.)	190,820	196,900	192,830	195,260	97,590	-	-	6,806,560	7,124,960	6,590,500	6,617,000	6,825,000
SOUTH AMERICA:												
Argentina	25	52	122	128	-	59.8	-	1,054	3,112	5,928	5,497	-
Brazil	2,074	2,323	4,166	3,756	-	28.6	-	58,970	66,424	132,779	101,164	-
British Guiana	78	70	98	101	-	50.8	-	3,445	3,559	4,993	4,780	-
Chile	-	13	80	70	-	99.9	-	18	1,299	4,274	4,381	-
Colombia c/	114	-	-	-	-	-	- c/	2,508	3,378	6,150	7,540	-
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,330	3,417	8,945	6,206	-
Paraguay c/	4	10	12	12	- c/	46.0	- c/	175 c/	460	367	539	-
Peru	126	107	130	160	-	42.8	-	4,551	4,578	6,500	9,400	-
Surinam c/	29	37	40	-	-	46.0	-	1,078	1,703	2,507	1,889	-
Uruguay	3	13	23	29	-	66.6	-	201	866	1,723	2,142	-
Total	2,580	2,960	5,370	4,970	5,030	-	-	74,940	89,440	175,340	144,480	155,000
AFRICA:												
Belgian Congo	- c/	220	297	-	- c/	11.2	-	- c/	2,475	4,409	-	-
Egypt	352	463	656	805	747	71.6	75.3	20,876	33,155	45,971	62,533	56,250
French West Africa	1,065 c/	1,562	-	-	- c/	13.4	-	18,087 c/	20,936	-	-	-
Madagascar	1,354	1,195	1,430	1,430	-	28.3	-	34,166	33,823	34,290	34,290	-
Sierra Leone	307	340	-	-	-	26.8	-	9,015	9,100	-	-	-
Total	3,560	4,210	6,930	7,040	6,990	-	-	87,410	107,850	146,800	163,000	158,000
OCEANIA:												
Australia	21	23	32	26	-	92.0	-	1,629	2,117	2,751	2,489	-
Fiji	10	10	25	-	-	43.1	-	480	431	924	-	-
Total	40	40	90	90	90	-	-	2,200	2,700	4,800	4,700	4,700
World total	199,100	206,500	208,400	210,800	213,300	-	-	7,085,000	7,458,000	7,065,000	7,102,000	7,318,000

a/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first part of the following year. b/ Preliminary. c/ Less than 5-year average. d/ Calendar year prior to 1946-47. e/ Average 1930-34. f/ Includes acreage and production in areas regularly reported only. g/ Average 1936-37/38-39. h/ South Korea only. In the 1935-39 period, production in South Korea averaged about 150,000,000 bushels. i/ Java and Madura only. j/ Subject to revision.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

WORLD RICE--(Continued from page 357)

Political unrest in French Indochina is preventing any substantial gain in seedings, and the area there is also estimated at about 75 percent of the prewar area. Favorable weather should result in from average-to-good yields per acre.

Siam is the only exporting country of A sia that has steadily increased its rice acreage since the end of the war. The 1948 acreage was expected to be about 400,000 acres larger than in 1947, bringing the total to more than 90 percent of the prewar acreage. Weather so far has been quite favorable, and the harvest of a large crop is anticipated.

Philippine rice acreage and production is larger than prewar average harvests. The acreage this year was again increased, and a record crop may be produced, despite a setback from typhoon damage near the end of the planting season.

Europe's total output may be slightly less than that of last year. The 1948 planted acreage was larger than in the preceding year, but growing conditions were only about average, whereas the weather in 1947 was exceptionally favorable in the rice-producing countries of that Continent.

Italy's harvest is estimated at about 90 percent of the production of the year before, and approximately 80 percent of its prewar outturn. Despite a substantial gain in acreage, a decrease occurred as a result of unfavorable weather. The acreage of Spain again increased, and large per-acre yields were produced (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 4, 1948). The outturn of Portugal is about the same as last year's record, or about 22 percent above the prewar average.

African production may be slightly less than in the year before. Early estimates of the Egyptian acreage indicate some area diverted to cotton, but the yields per acre are nearly as large as the record yields of last year, and are expected to result in a near-record crop (See Foreign Crops and Markets, October 25, 1948). Political unrest in Madagascar continues to prevent any gain in the planting and harvesting of the rice acreage.

Total North American harvests are expected to about equal last year's record. The United States acreage increased slightly, but lower yields brought the harvest to 1 percent below last year. Mexico planted an acreage comparable with last year's record, and weather so far has been favorable for production.

A marked increase is taking place in the rice production of several Central American countries. Nicaragua's 1948-49 crop is expected to be nearly double that of last year, and the production of El Salvador, another exporting country, also shows a substantial gain. Production is up also in the importing countries, Panama and Costa Rica. The acreage

(Continued on Page 365)

WORLD COTTONSEED PRODUCTION APPROACHES PREWAR AVERAGE

World cottonseed production for 1948-49 is forecast at 13,740,000 short tons by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This forecast exceeds last year's output by 17 percent and compares favorably with production in the late 1930's with the exception of the unusually large outturn in 1937-38. All continents show increases. North America leads with 29 percent more than in 1947-48 while Asia, the second largest producer, is only 2 percent larger.

Based on the ratio of cottonseed to lint during the past 5 years, the United States 1948-49 cottonseed production would be 6,091,000 tons, almost one-third greater than a year ago and approximately 10 percent larger than the prewar average. This country, which normally produces well over a third of the world cottonseed supply, is accounting for more than 44 percent this season.

Although Mexico reports 260,000 tons of cottonseed compared with 232,000 in 1947-48, the return is smaller than anticipated. In Laguna district, the largest producing area, the cotton crop was damaged by heavy rains and later by increased pink bollworm attacks. El Salvador and Haiti produced 10,000 and 6,000 tons, respectively. Elsewhere in North America cottonseed production is comparatively small.

Total European cottonseed output is 85,000 tons, 15,000 greater than a year ago and 13 percent above the prewar average. Increases over 1947-48 are expected in Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania, and Spain. The scarcity of foreign exchange for importing cotton, high prices, and the fact that the Balkan countries are not generally deficit in overall food supplies are factors that probably encouraged production.

Cottonseed in the Soviet Union is estimated at 1,200,000 tons or equal to last year's production.

Iran's 1948-49 estimate of 61,000 tons is the largest in several years but has not reached the 1935-39 average of 91,000 tons. This year's increase is the result of acreage expansion which was stimulated by Government support prices and other advantages to cotton growers.

Turkey's cottonseed output of 120,000 tons is the largest since 1942 despite heavy damage to the cotton crop by corn ear worms in the Adana district. Based on cotton acreage increase in Burma, this year's production should be somewhat larger than the 20,000 tons in 1947-48.

China's production is slowly recovering from the small output in the middle 1940's. Although complete data are not available for 1948-49, indications point to an outturn of 1,232,000 tons compared with 1,196,000 last season. It is generally thought that Chinese growers intended to increase cotton plantings in 1948 in view of the fact that prices of cotton had advanced more rapidly than those for rice and other grains

(Continued on page 364; table follows)

COTTONSEED: Production in specified areas, average 1935-39, annual 1942-48

Year beginning August 1

Continent and country	Average 1935-39	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947 1/	1948 1/
	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
NORTH AMERICA:								
El Salvador	2	7	9	8	5	10	10	10
Mexico	160	219	246	226	207	221	232	269
United States	5,554	5,202	4,688	4,902	3,664	3,513	4,681	6,091
Haiti	12	7	7	6	6	4	6	6
Total 2/	5,735	5,440	4,955	5,150	3,890	3,750	4,935	6,385
EUROPE:								
Bulgaria 3/	19	6	4	6	5	11	15	-
Greece	39	4	4	7	16	26	27	27
Italy	11	11	6	5	5	6	8	-
Rumania 3/	1	4	7	14	12	6	10	-
Spain	5	10	10	13	4	11	7	13
Total 2/	75	40	35	50	45	60	70	85
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	1,640	-	-	-	815	1,075	1,250	1,250
ASIA:								
Iran	91	39	41	43	49	34	43	61
Syria	15	11	7	7	12	12	7	-
Turkey	126	134	93	114	84	104	111	120
Afghanistan	27	9	11	-	11	5	-	-
Burma	54	39	50	47	18	12	20	-
China (including Manchuria)	1,593	1,228	837	893	1,016	1,078	1,196	1,232
India 4/	2,984	2,390	2,628	2,061	1,316	1,311	1,456	1,400
Korea	91	98	104	116	52	38	33	39
Netherland Indies	5	5	4	6	-	1	-	-
Pakistan 4/	-	-	-	-	595	583	472	536
Siam	4	-	-	-	9	14	14	13
Total 2/	5,005	3,970	3,795	3,320	3,180	3,200	3,370	3,450

SOUTH AMERICA:								
Argentina	147	253	281	169	145	170	206	234
Brazil	935	1,038	1,291	777	645	624	576	672
Colombia	12	11	14	16	11	11	13	15
Paraguay	20	20	37	20	22	28	15	29
Peru	204	139	165	173	175	160	161	-
Venezuela	6	9	9	9	7	6	8	-
Total 2/	1,330	1,475	1,800	1,170	1,010	1,005	985	1,130
AFRICA AND OCEANIA:								
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	132	146	93	167	103	125	115	-
Belgian Congo	87	101	72	85	92	88	94	-
Tanganyika	25	22	16	18	17	17	17	19
Uganda	143	48	81	116	97	98	70	128
Egypt	1,007	467	394	512	576	669	702	920
French Equatorial Africa	22	42	40	51	54	38	53	-
French West Africa	16	-	7	11	5	5	7	-
Mozambique	18	47	48	47	50	56	50	-
Nigeria	19	14	11	7	16	14	8	-
Angola	7	13	12	15	10	14	12	14
Total 2/	1,500	930	795	1,045	1,030	1,135	1,145	1,440
World total	15,285	12,810	12,095	11,500	9,970	10,225	11,755	13,740

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries. 3/ Figures for 1942 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. 4/ Prior to 1945 figures for India include Pakistan.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. United States figures were compiled from official records; figures for other countries were calculated from lint-production estimates.

but it appears that an increase was prevented by internal disturbances, together with excessive rainfall and floods in the Yangtze Valley.

India's 1948-49 cottonseed production, estimated at 1,400,000 tons, is slightly less than the comparable estimate for last year. Earlier in the season, an acreage increase was expected, but weather conditions were not favorable. Prices of foodgrains in Madras Province were relatively higher than those for cotton, thus discouraging any shift to cotton cultivation in that area.

The 1948 Pakistan cottonseed outturn is estimated at 536,000 tons, 14 percent larger than the greatly reduced outturn in 1947-48. About 75 percent of this country's cotton crop is grown under irrigation. At least one large source of water passes through India, and although it is subject to being cut off as it was in 1947, negotiations between the Governments of Pakistan and India are expected to prevent it. New irrigation projects already under construction and others being planned are expected to permit a substantial increase in cotton acreage in the next few years.

Argentine cottonseed output for 1948-49, based on the cotton goal and farmers intentions to plant, is estimated at 234,000 tons. This figure, however, may not be realized as weather conditions have not been favorable, and locusts have appeared in large numbers in several localities.

Indications point to a substantial increase in Brazil. The forecast is 672,000 tons based on a larger acreage and improved yields from a new variety of cotton. Also new insect controls applied on a wide scale last year reduced losses from insects and are expected to offer better protection for this year's crop. The 1947-48 cottonseed outturn was 576,000 tons.

Figures are not available for Peru's 1948-49 cottonseed production, but no significant change is expected from the 1947-48 output of 161,000 tons. The wartime restrictions on cotton acreage have been lifted, but food commodities are still scarce and prices are high in relation to those for cotton. Government requirements for planting specified percentages of all cultivated land to food crops, however, are still in effect in most coastal areas, and food crops continue to occupy about 50,000 acres formerly planted to cotton.

Egypt's 1948-49 cottonseed, estimated at 920,000 tons, is almost one-third greater than that of last season. Production has increased steadily from the low of 394,000 tons in 1943. The wartime acreage controls have not been entirely lifted but have been moderated each year. Production is now 91 percent of the prewar average.

No significant changes are expected in 1948 cottonseed production in other parts of Africa, except Uganda, where production rose to 128,000 tons or 83 percent above the abnormally low output of 70,000 tons in 1947-48.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of C. M. Purves, acting Chairman, Russell S. Kifer, Regina H. Boyle, Helen Francis and Charles H. Barber.

WORLD RICE--(Continued from Page 360)

of Honduras was increased, but adverse weather resulted in the production of only a normal crop.

The total production of the Caribbean area is slightly larger than the output of a year ago. Cuba increased its acreage 14 percent, and despite considerable loss from the September hurricane, a record crop probably will be harvested.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, C. M. Purves, Russell S. Kifer, L. Thelma Willahan, and Constance H. Farnworth.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FATS AND OILS

JAVA (N.E.I.) PEANUT, SOYBEAN AREAS ABOVE NORMAL

Peanut and soybean acreages harvested and still under cultivation at the end of June in the Federal area of Java (Netherlands Indies) were 25 and 14 percent larger, respectively, than in 1937, according to a report from the American Consulate General, Batavia.

Of the 118,360 acres devoted to peanuts, 73,140 were in West Java, 35,090 in East Java, and 10,130 in Central Java. The area under review represents about 45 percent of the total peanut producing districts of Java and Madura. No information is available on production either in Madura or in the Republican controlled area of Java.

Most of the peanut crop is planted in irrigated fields after the rice crop is harvested. Reports from the agricultural areas indicate that yields during the first 6 months of the year and the condition of the crop under cultivation in June were normal and generally satisfactory. However, drought conditions which prevailed throughout Java from June into October will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on the acreage planted after June. This condition is aggravated by the fact that the water table has been lowered through deforestation in the mountains during the Japanese occupation while damaged irrigation systems have not yet been completely repaired.

While no official estimates of production are yet available, it is safe to assume that the total output of peanuts in both Federal and Republican areas in 1948 will not exceed 165,000 short tons.

The total soybean area harvested and under cultivation at the end of June was 259,450 acres, of which 212,260 were in East Java, 24,460 in Central Java, and 22,730 in West Java. As in the case of peanuts, this area represents about 45 percent of the total soybean producing districts of Java and Madura.

Reports indicate that the yield from the West Monsoon crop in March and April was generally above average. The East Monsoon crop, which was beginning to be harvested in June, was reported as less satisfactory due primarily to poor seed. An area of 7,400 acres planted in the Surabaya district was destroyed by rats. At the end of June the plantings were reported as normal and better, except that by the middle of October the most recent plantings were beginning to be affected by the drought.

No official estimates of production for 1948 have been issued, but it is doubtful that the total for all of Java will reach 8,800,000 bushels (about 10 percent below the 1937 production of 9,884,000).

CUBAN PEANUT HARVEST SMALLEST IN 10 YEARS

Cuba's peanut crop for 1948 is expected to amount to only 11,500 short tons, less than half the size of last year's and the smallest since 1938, according to information from the American Embassy, Habana. This will reduce the oil output to about 2,350 tons, compared with 5,500 in 1947.

The most important reason for this smaller peanut crop is that planted acreage was greatly reduced. Many farmers preferred to grow more profitable crops such as corn or beans, and some preferred to work in the sugar harvest as relatively well-paid laborers during the regular spring peanut planting season. For this reason the peanut crushing firms, which normally finance farmers and provide seed, were unable to make contracts for the large summer crop they desired.

Another significant crop-reducing factor was the failure of a considerable amount of seed to germinate. This was variously attributed to poor seed and to dry weather in March and early April following the planting season in eastern Cuba. Reports indicate that from 5 to 10 percent of the seedings in Oriente and Las Villas Provinces was lost in this way.

A third cause of reduced production was the lateness of the crop in western Cuba. Farmers in the Habana and Pinar del Rio growing sections usually wait for spring rains before they plant. This year the rains were heavy and closely spaced from the beginning, and the soil was too wet for planting until late in May. Consequently, many peanut fields were not yet harvested when the heavy September rains began. As a result, the soil was heavy with water and packed hard, and up to 20 percent of the western provinces' crop remained in the ground. The value of peanuts for crushing was reduced by a large proportion of dirt and foreign matter and by a high moisture content.

Peanuts from the recent harvest are moving rapidly to the crushing centers. The small summer crop will cause most oil extraction plants to close down for a considerable period for lack of peanuts before the winter crop is harvested.

Most crushers made contracts in the spring which specified a price to growers of $5.50 per quintal ($108 per short ton) of unshelled peanuts, f.o.b. country shipping points, at harvest time. To secure delivery by farmers in compliance with contracts, the crushers actually paid $6.00 ($118) in the early part of the harvest, and for the late peanuts now being shipped prices range from $6.50 ($128) to $8.00 ($158). Because of the evident small size of the crop, some buyers offered premium prices and all others were forced to follow their lead or keep their crushing plants idle. Many contracts for the winter peanut crop stipulate that the price will be "equal to the current offerings of any buyer on delivery date." While this may cause confusion since there is no organized market for peanuts in Cuba, at least the supplier of seed is assured a chance to bid for the product from the fields he has under contract.

Peanut oil is plentiful on Cuban markets, now that the crushing season is well started, but prices have risen about 10 percent since last April. Oil in 47.5-pound tins sells at wholesale for 46 cents per pound and that in 1-pound bottles for 50-51 cents.

The prospects in early 1949 for larger supplies of cheaper imported fats and oils may have a significant effect on plantings for the 1949 summer crop. If larger imports of soybean and cottonseed oils seem probable, plantings will be discouraged. Crushers, who are also the financial backers for the farmers, fear that production costs may not decline enough in 1949 to permit peanut oil to compete with imported oils. This seems to be the greatest deterrent to a recovery in peanut acreage next year, as the sugar and corn crops are not expected to compete so actively with peanuts for land and labor.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S. gulf-port average

Market location kind, and quality	Date 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good	11-4	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	43.95	36.67
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	"	"	"	41.45	34.59
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	69.20	57.74
Karnak, F.G.F.	"	"	"	(not	quoted)
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	610.00	23.47
Broach, Fine	"	"	"	a/ 650.00	25.01
Kampala, East African	"	"	"	(not	available)
Karachi		Maund			
4F Punjab, S. G., Fine	11-3	82.28 lbs.	"	72.00	26.40
289F Sind, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	87.00	31.90
289F Punjab, S. G., Fine	"	"	"	98.00	35.93
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B	11-4	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	a/ 3300.00	44.57
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	11-2	101.4 lbs.	Sol	180.00	27.37
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	285.00	43.34
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4	11-4	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	(not	available)
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	190.00	31.26
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	203.00	33.40
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	179.00	25.49
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXX	30.92

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U. S. quotations from designated spot markets.

a/ Nominal.